



Rock Talk

The Official Newsletter of the Withlacoochee Rockhounds

President's Message



Musings, Updates, and More from Club President - Judith Birx

We are about to meet for the third time, since this pandemic has started, indoors at the Senior Center on the regular meeting date and time (May 12th 7:00pm)! Our first meetings were a success! Let's keep things rolling out!

This is both exciting and concerning at the same time! Even though we are moving towards a new normal or at least something we can call normal for now, its important to note we are still in a Pandemic situation!

So, this is what it means to the club.

- We are still following the CDC guidelines,
- Masks indoors and outdoors,
- 6' feet away from each other,
- Hand sanitizer will be available.
- If you are sick or not feeling well Stay at Home
- If you have been in contact with someone who had the COVID Virus please stay home
- If you are in the high risk Category please stay home
- **YOU ARE ATTENDING AT YOUR OWN RISK**

This month's presentation will be presented by Dave Davis. His presentation will be on Flint Napping! Flint napping is a technique used to make cutting instruments from stone. If you think of the way arrowheads look, you have an idea about what flint napping is. It is an interesting skill to behold.

This Month's Roundup of Stories

- President's Message
- Secretary's Report
- Dinosaur Fossil
- 19th Century Geologist
- Save Wm. Holland
- Bench Tips

We are allowing our members to come with their items, rocks, and fossils for sale, however, there will be no selling during the presentation, indoors or outdoors. We need to respect our presenters and our educational programs while they are being presented to our members.

It is with great sorrow that I announce the passing of two of our club members. Dorwin Skinner and John Motzer passed away just in the last few days.

We will have a tribute to both of these members in next month's newsletter.

Our heart felt condolences to both families.

Secretary's Report

Minutes and More from Club Secretary - Melodye Steverson

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Meeting

Date 4/14/2021

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Judith Birx at 7:05pm.

We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silent prayer.

There was 1 new member to recognize; Kris Gorden. There were 4 guests in attendance; Alice Trotman, Marcia Ziel and Maritza & Rich. Roberta Oldread made a motion to accept the minutes of our March meeting as printed in the newsletter, Mark Moore seconded. Passed by all members. Treasurer Janet Wheeler gave the Treasurer's report. Mark Moore made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report subject to audit. Seconded by Roberta Oldread. Approved by all.

Old Business

President Birx began her announcements by re-stating that our meetings will continue to be held under CDC guidelines:

Masks are mandatory;

Use of hand sanitizer;

Social distancing of six feet;

Doors will be open if possible;

Room will be sanitized before meeting;

Gloves recommended when handling money.

If you are sick or were in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid, please do not attend. If you are in the high risk category, please do not attend.

You are attending meetings and all activities associated with the Withlacoochee Rockhounds at your own risk. You will be required to sign a waiver before entering the building. President Birx also stated, "If you are uncomfortable – leave now. If you are high risk or you feel bad, leave now."

President Birx also reminded members that the club house is open by 5:30pm on the meeting night and anyone who wishes to use the machines should call her to reserve time or come early to help set them up. Members should have instruction on proper use of machines before attempting to use one. Plus, if a member uses a machine, they are agreeing to clean and put away the machine at the end of the meeting. No machines will be used during the presentation as all members are expected to be quiet out of respect for the presenter.

The Senior Center and it's various clubs had a presence at The Sportsman's Expo that was held at Tom Varn Park on the weekend of March 20th. Senior Center President and club member Angela Bennett was present for the weekend and Board member Lynn Walters did an excellent jog of representing our club for most of Saturday.

Continued on page 7



SMU and Japanese paleontologists find second hadrosaurid species

Hadrosaurs, known for their broad, flattened snouts, are the most commonly found of all dinosaurs. The plant-eating dinosaurs lived in the Late Cretaceous period more than 65 million years ago and their fossilized remains have been found in North America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

This is an excerpted portion of the article.

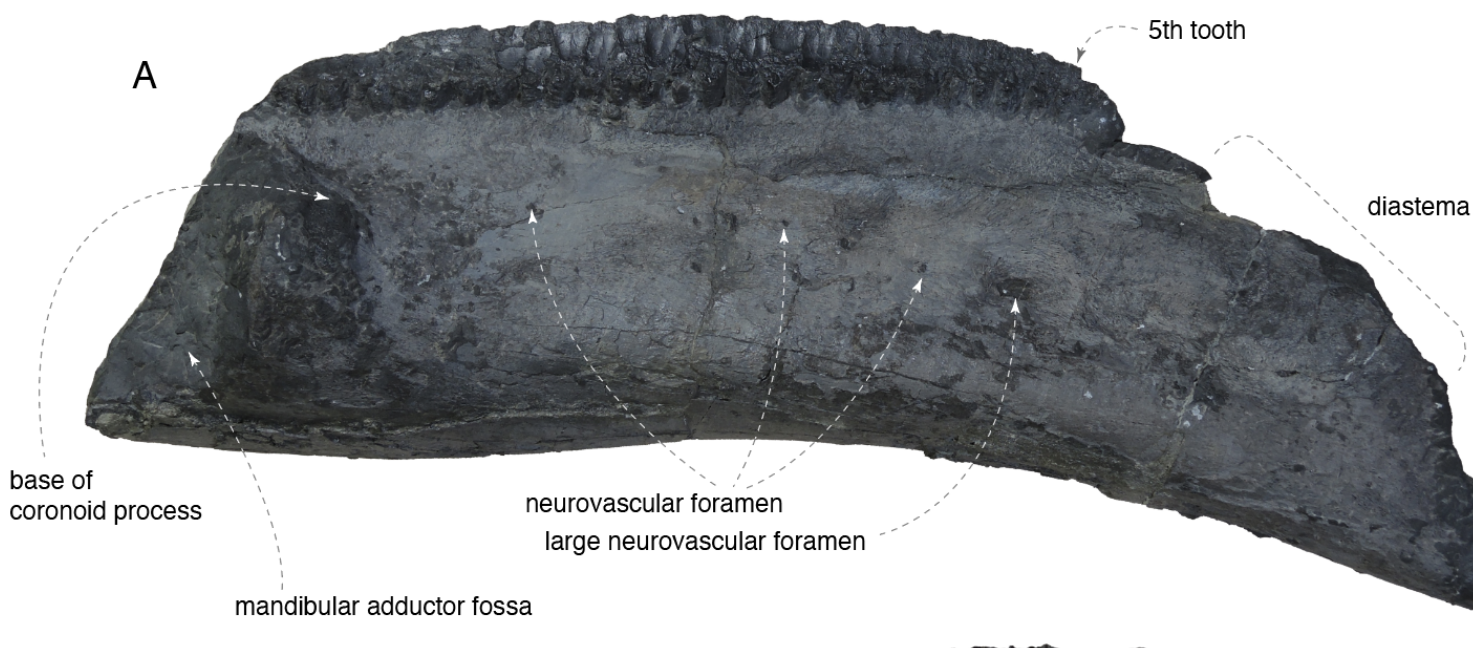
Read the entire article here at SMU.edu

Dinosaurs!!

An international team of paleontologists has identified a new genus and species of hadrosaur or duck-billed dinosaur, *Yamatosaurus izanagii*, on one of Japan's southern islands.

The fossilized discovery yields new information about hadrosaur migration, suggesting that the herbivores migrated from Asia to North America instead of vice versa. The discovery also illustrates an evolutionary step as the giant creatures evolved from walking upright to walking on all fours. Most of all, the discovery provides new information and asks new questions about dinosaurs in Japan.

Uniquely adapted to chewing, hadrosaurs had hundreds of closely spaced teeth in their cheeks.

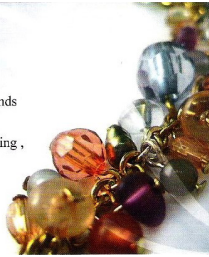


Rockhounds Advertisers

Jewels by Jude

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Member of Withlacoochee Rockhounds
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Natural Stone Jewelry, Wire Wrapping,
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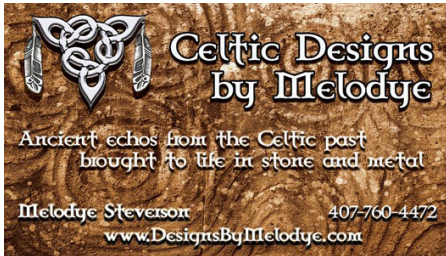
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KELLY JOHNSON

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buy / sell / trade retail / wholesale

... Yes I buy collections, lapidary equipment, etc...

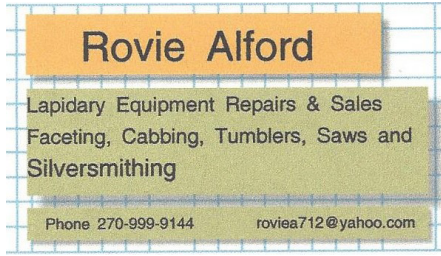
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Your Business Card Size Ad in Rock Talk

The cost for non-club members to advertise their businesses in
Rock Talk is \$10.00 per month.

Contact Michael Stevenson to set up an ad in both the newsletter and
the club website. It will benefit both
your business and our club.

If you ad has a web address, or Etsy shop address, I have linked to it.

Advertisers Are Needed

Please help us find advertisers for the Rock Talk and our website.
The monthly income from these ads is beneficial to the club.
Both the Rock Talk and our website have more exposure than only club members.
Contact club treasurer Janet Wheeler: ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com or
send to:
Withlacoochee Rockhounds
PO Box 5634 Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

Letter from 19th Century geologist/rockhound

A Blast From The Past -
Courtesy of VP Mark Moore

Philadelphia January 01 LY 1822

Respected Friend,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 8th Inst and also the box of minerals you had the goodness to forward to me. Agreeably to my promise to you when I saw you last I shall not open the box until you shall be present relying however with full confidence in your judgment I am satisfied that the specimens are interesting. Dr elesade has obtained a room in the University and he is now engaged in removing his minerals from the Academy to the place where we shall have an opportunity of seeing his whole collection at one view. He appears to be disposed to be liberal and promising to give you specimins of assay in all his American minerals

Our friend Mr Jefoup has brought his wife to Phil- attention to her will necifarrly before his zeal for mineralogy. This must not however prevent us from pursuing the subject with prudents indirectly. The season is approaching when you will be able to resume your mineralogy excursions and I shall expect to have the pleasure of hearing from you frequently

I am my dear sir,
Truly your Friend

Jos Clouch

Mr George Spackman

"inst." is an abbreviation for "instant", which means the current month or year, depending upon its context. For example, "the 3rd day of March, inst.," means March 3 of the current year. "The 3rd day, inst.," means the 3rd day of the current month.

Note: letter has been re-typed, with original mis-spellings.

Mr George Spackman

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Truly your Friend
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Mr George Spackman

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Membership Form 2021

Annual Dues: New individual member, \$25.00. Under 18 years of age, \$5.00. No charge for paid 2020 members who are renewing for 2021. Returning members from 2019, \$20.00 (\$5.00 discount) for 2021 membership

Check if returning member

Check if current member
with change of information

Check if new member

Check if under 18

Please Print Clearly

Last name _____ First Name _____

Street Address: _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone Number (s) _____

Email address: _____

You may now fill in the fields on this form if you are viewing it on your computer or tablet. Each field may be clicked on and then you may type in your information. You will still need to print out the form, but your added information should show on the

Give this completed form along with your check for dues made out to "Withlacoochee Rockhounds" to club secretary Janet Wheeler at a club meeting. Or mail the form and your check to:

Withlacoochee Rockhounds
PO Box 5634
Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

Renewing 2020 members : No charge for 2021 membership. Please fill out form and give it to club secretary Janet Wheeler or send it to the above address.

2021

The monthly Jewelry class is canceled due to the inability to practice 6' social distancing during the class, however, President Birx intends to teach a class on video and put it on YouTube. She encouraged others who can teach to do the same.

New Business

Mark Moore announced that Dave Davis will be presenting a program on "Flint Napping" in May. This will explain how stone breaks and demonstrate how to do it. Our June program on Agatized Coral will be presented by a recently joined member, Janice Wojcik.

The Weeki Wachee Senior Center is having a quarterly meeting for all the members to attend. They will be discussing all the new and ongoing business of the club house. Meeting is May 11 at 1pm.

Our Gem Show committee is being formed and will be using ideas members collected from attending other club's shows in recent months.

The hunt for a new representative logo came to an end at this meeting. All of the logos were displayed on tables for members to vote for their choice. Only two members submitted logos. The one with the most votes was submitted by member Janice Wojcik. The logo will have our County and State added to it and will be in use from now on.

- Continued on page 8



Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Our monthly club meeting is held at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Club, 3357 Susan Dr., Spring Hill, FL 34606, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 PM

www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

Your Business Card Size Ad in Rock Talk

The cost for non-club members to advertise their businesses in Rock Talk is \$10.00 per month. Contact Michael Steverson to set up an ad in both the newsletter and the club website. It will benefit both your business and our club.

Advertisers Needed

Please help us find advertisers for the Rock Talk and our website. The club can use the monthly income. Both the Rock Talk and our website have more exposure than only club members

Contact club treasure Janet Wheeler: ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com or send to: Withlacoochee Rockhounds, PO Box 5634, Spring Hill, FL 34811-5634

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Purpose

We are a non-profit organization whose purpose is to foster interest and promote knowledge of minerals, gems, fossils, lapidary arts, and earth sciences, through regular meetings, informative programs, workshops, and field trips. PLUS our annual gem and mineral and jewelry show. Membership is open to anyone sharing such interests.

Dues

Dues are \$20.00 annually for adults and no cost for children under 18 years of age.

Club Meeting Location and Time

Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center, 3357 Susan Drive in Spring Hill. The meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM.

2020 Club Officers and Appointees

President.....	Judith Birx.....	352-587-1702.....	judithbirx@hotmail.com
Vice President.....	Mark Moore.....	352-586-9607.....	markles@bellsouth.net
Secretary.....	Melodye Steverson.....	352-683-9496.....	melodye@designsbymelodye.com
Treasurer.....	Janet Wheeler.....	727-938-3644.....	ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com
Rock Talk Editor	Michael Steverson	407-376-5570	highlander56@gmail.com
Club Web Master.....	Michael Steverson	407-376-5570	highlander56@gmail.com
Mailing Reporter.....	Janet Wheeler.....	727-938-3644.....	ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com
Gem Bag Coordinator.....	Gloria DuPont.....	352-848-5199.....	ddupont@tampabay.rr.com
Audio/Visual Coordinator.....	Michael Steverson.....	407-376-5570.....	highlander56@gmail.com

Board of Directors

Ralph Barber (past president)	Ginny Steverson (2021)
Judith Birx (president)	Michael Steverson (2021 appointed)
Mark Moore (vice president)	Lynn Walters (2021)
Roberta Oldread (2020)	Janet Wheeler (treasurer)
Melodye Steverson (secretary)	

Field Trip Report;

President Birx will be going to Arkansas in May to hunt for crystals and diamonds.

Lauren Bell and Lynn Walters will be going on an 11 day "May the quartz be with you!" hunt in April. They promise to report back!

Lynn Walker also reported that most museums are closed due to COVID. Vulcan is still closed.

Mark Moore made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Lynn Walters seconded, passed by all.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye Steverson.

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Date 4/22/2021

Attending Board members; Judith Birx, Mark Moore, Melodye Steverson, Janet Wheeler, Ralph Barber, Roberta Oldread, Ginny Steverson, Lynn Walters and Michael Steverson.

Board meeting started at 6:41pm and was held via the Internet on Zoom.

Mark Moore made a motion to accept the minutes of our meeting as printed in the newsletter, seconded by Ralph Barber. Passed.

President Judith Birx had distributed the meeting agenda via Email.

OLD BUSINESS

President Birx stated that we had 32 members at our last monthly meeting and asked who had the member sign in sheet. Treasurer Wheeler said she had it.

She also stated Secretary Steverson had brought to her attention that several club members were not wearing masks or not wearing them properly. President Birx stated that she had been policing the crowd and had admonished many members regarding their masks. She stated she felt the other Board members should help her remind the members who were not acting according to the guidelines, to do so. Several Board members agreed to the task.

She asked for details about the Gem Show venue from Ralph Barber. He said the venue is locked in and things are going as usual. He has a new floor plan in mind to leave room for social distancing.

Ads for the Show will start in September and he is looking at getting "Boosts" for the Facebook pages as well.

Mark Moore talked about how we could make the Kid's program social distanced. He and Lauren Bell and Lynn Walters will work on it. Ralph Barber suggested to do buckets with gravel and sharks teeth for kids to find. Mark said he has the supplies to do it. He may do a rock ID table as well.

NEW BUSINESS

President Birx stated William Holland had announced they had decided to close until 2022. Secretary Steverson suggested that this be noted in the club newsletter to make members aware of the auctions and sales the school is running to make money to maintain the buildings and grounds until they can re-open the school.

We have a new logo. Roberta Oldread volunteered to talk to her friend who makes patches about getting some made. Mark Moore made a motion for Roberta to get an estimate for club patches from her friend, seconded by Melodye Steverson, passed.

Having a UV lamp installed in the A/C at the club house was discussed and agreed upon. Mark Moore made a motion to get estimates from professional companies to do the install, seconded by Lynn Walters.

Motion to end meeting was made by Mark Moore, 2nd by Roberta Oldread.

Meeting adjourned 7:13pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye Steverson

Help Save William Holland School

For those of you that have not heard, the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts, aka William Holland Retreat, has decided to cancel their entire 2021 season due to the pandemic.

They plan to re-open for the 2022 season.

This school has meant a lot to many of our members over the years and now they are struggling to maintain their building and grounds without their normal revenue stream from students. If you're interested in helping, they have an auction every Tuesday and a sale on Wednesday. You can get slabs, cabochons, findings, tools, books and completed jewelry as well. These are on their Facebook pages. Just look up William Holland School on Facebook and I'm sure you can find them. They also offer videos of their teachers doing demos and classes, so you can learn from the site as well!

You can help the school and get great stuff at a good price at the same time. Check it out!



Brad Smith's *Bench Tips* are a monthly feature of Rock Talk

SEPARATING DISCS

Separating Discs (also called Cutoff Wheels) are inexpensive and do a great job cutting or shaping steel. You can use them to sharpen tool points, cut piano wire to length, make slots, and sharpen worn drills. Other uses include modifying pliers and making your own design stamps.

My preference is the one inch diameter size. Be sure to hold the wheel firmly so nothing moves to break the disc, and definitely wear your safety glasses. Those are little flakes of steel coming off the disk.

BTW - Separating Discs are rather poor at soft metals like copper, silver and gold. Soft metals clog up the cutting edges.



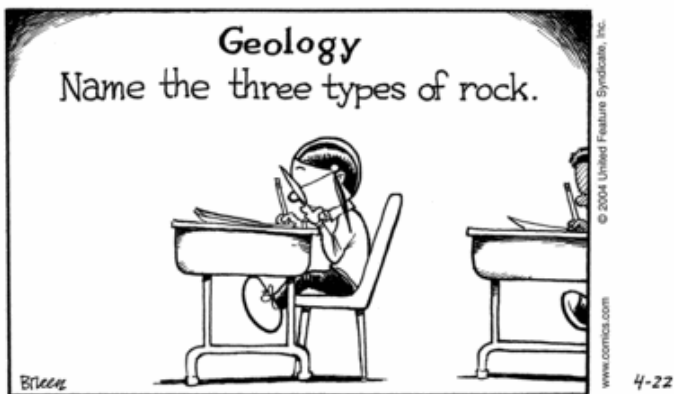
DEBURRING JUMP RINGS

When cutting jump rings from large gauge wire for chain making, you'll notice the saw leaves a small burr. An easy way to remove these is to tumble the rings with some fine-cut pyramids. It's best not to tumble for a long period with the pyramids because it will remove the polished finish from the wire.

No tumbler, no problem. You don't actually need a tumbler. I just put a handful of pyramids in a wide mouth plastic jar and shake for a bit. You can find these pyramids in the tumble finishing section of most jewelry supply catalogs.

Learn New Skills with Brad's "How To Do It" Books

[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)





From The Editor

Hello to all Withlacoochee Rockhounds

It is I, your friendly neighborhood editor again.

If you would like to place a business card ad in the newsletter, please feel free to contact me, and we'll get you added to next available issue.

Additionally, if any of you have not received your newsletter or are not receiving my e-mail blasts (meetings, rock sales, etc.), *please* check your spam folder. If you still are not receiving them, please contact me and let's make sure I have your correct e-mail address.

As noted in last month's Rock Talk, I have created for the club a Google My Business account. Doing this, when someone searches for "lapidary clubs near me", or "rockhounds near me", we will come up in their search. Now that this is live, if you would, please search for "Withlacoochee Rockhounds", and when you see our listing to the right side of the page in Google, please use the "Write a Review" link and give the club a good review. It helps with search engine results. Which means more people find us, and we hopefully acquire new members. It's a win-win!

Please note, in last month's newsletter, we posted that the William Holland School, and Wildacres School both had posted schedules of their classes for the summer. We have been notified that William Holland has had to cancel their entire 2021 season due to the COVID pandemic. They DO plan to reopen in 2022. William Holland School holds online auctions every Tuesday, and a sale on Wednesdays. Search for their page on Facebook, and please try to buy something from them. It will really help them out.

Our club is being updated and getting better every day, and we now have the new logo we spoke of in previous newsletters. Thank you to Janice Wojcik for the winning design. The new logo will be incorporated into next month's newsletter, and other club documents. In addition, we are researching how soon we can also have patches created with the new logo. With that new logo, I will also create new t-shirts for the club. As with the present shirts, these shirts will be available on Amazon. I will post the link for the club as soon as they become available.

Our Board would like our members to come up with suggestions for Programs to be presented at our monthly meetings. What would you like to see? What would you like to learn? What would you like to know? Is there something you'd like to teach or present? You can help our club expand it's educational repertoire. We'd love to hear from you all. Contact any Board member or bring your written suggestions to a meeting.

Rock On!!!

Club Phone Number - 352.587.2714

Warning to Withlacoochee Rockhound Members

During the last several months, illicit requests have been sent to members of various clubs in the US, including the Withlacoochee Rockhounds, asking members to purchase gift cards that would be used as donations to various organizations.

These are SCAMS.

Be advised that our club has never and will never ask members to buy gift cards or provide any form of monetary funds to anyone or any organization by phone call, email, or any other method of communication.